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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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FIRST EDITION.

WHISKY FRAUDS.

Strange Charges Against Secretary Bristow.

Sensation by the Chicago "Inter-Ocean."

A FLAT DENIAL FROM LOUISVILLE.

CHICAGO, December 25.—The *Inter-Ocean* this morning publishes a statement that Secretary Bristow is soon to be investigated by a Congressional committee and pretends to show that his dealings with distillers and rectifiers before his appointment as Secretary were questionable. The following is a summary of the statement, which is very long: The Congressional committee is to be composed of four Democrats and three Republicans, with Randall as Chairman. Babcock proposes to appear before this committee and testify to all facts in his possession, with the object of securing immunity from any prosecution against himself, and enable the honest element of the Democratic party to dispose of Bristow by showing that he has, from the start, been as deep in the mud as John A. Joyce is now in the penitentiary. He will explain his dispatches and call four witnesses to substantiate his story. Babcock will testify that Bristow has been attorney and counsel for whisky men in Louisville and Cincinnati; that his brother-in-law, Weller, is a brother of Weller, the Louisville whisky man; that whenever the Secretary visits Louisville he makes his home at the residence of his brother-in-law, and that when he goes to Cincinnati he stops with one Hobart, who is connected with one of the largest whisky houses in that city. Babcock also claims to be able to show that during January, 1874, whisky was seized in Chicago and Peoria consigned by Cunningham & Co., of Louisville; that Bristow was at that time counsel for Cunningham & Co. Ex-District Attorney Glover, of Chicago, says that he received private letters from Bristow asking that that whisky be released. To these letters Mr. Glover sent a firm refusal. He says he received several applications, all of which he refused, and upon the appointment of Bristow as Secretary of the Treasury, he (Bristow) sent a conditional order for the release of the whisky at Peoria. Bristow, it is affirmed, had worked in conjunction with certain counsel in this city for the release of that whisky, and upon his appointment as Secretary the remark was made, "By ——, we'll have that whisky now!"

SPECIFIC DENIAL FROM LOUISVILLE.

LOUISVILLE, December 26.—The Chicago *Inter-Ocean's* charges and insinuations relative to Secretary Bristow, which were published at length Saturday last, were reproduced in the *Courier-Journal* to-day and read very generally in Louisville, as it was well known here that Bristow is not and never has been connected with or counsel for Louisville whisky firms. Statements to the contrary only receive credence in Kentucky. It is alleged in the *Inter-Ocean's* report that when Bristow visits Louisville he invariably makes his stay at the house of Mr. Jacob Weller, his brother-in-law, and the brother of W. L. Weller, a whisky dealer and rectifier. Both the Wellers deny this and say that while Bristow and his brother-in-law have always been friendly, they are not at all intimate; further, that Bristow always puts up at the Galt House and votes in the ward in which all the residents of the hotel mentioned are required to do their voting. As far as Mr. W. L. Weller is concerned, he says Mr. Bristow has never acted as counsel for him, but one time assisted, as in duty bound, in the prosecution of his firm for an alleged technical violation of the revenue law.

In reference to the whisky of J. A. Cunningham, seized at Peoria and referred to by the *Inter-Ocean*, the facts are that the whisky was sold by Monks & Cobb, of this city, to J. A. Cunningham. After the seizure, Bristow, as has been stated before he became Secretary of the Treasury, as a friendly act to Monks & Cobb, wrote to the District Attorney at Chicago requesting that he defer action till all the facts were ascertained. Subsequently that whisky and part of the same lot seized at Chicago, were forfeited because there was no defense. The parties interested in the defense having been taken by surprise, a new trial was granted and the case is still pending. J. A. Cunningham has refused the compromise offered because they insisted that the whisky was all right. After Bristow became Secretary of the Treasury he was applied to by Cobb to order the release of the whisky, but declined to give any order upon the subject, for the reason that he had been consulted by Cobb prior to becoming Secretary, unless the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the Solicitor of the Treasury should recommend the release. These are the facts as gathered from Cobb, a gentleman of the highest standing here. He also says an agent of the Government investigated the whole case and reported nothing wrong about the whisky. He hardly complained that Bristow's sensitiveness as to official propriety has prevented him from doing what the facts would have justified him in doing. Mr. Cunningham says he was no accomplice in the seizure of his whisky, that ex-Commissioner Douglass was apprised of the facts concerning it, and intimated that money would secure its release. Mr. Cunningham says he has paid nothing and does not intend to use money to secure what properly belongs to him.

All the other whisky men named in the *Inter-Ocean* article as having employed Bristow, including the Newcomb Buchanan Company, deny such statements. Democrats here say they see no excuse for the *Inter-Ocean's* attempt to ally them with a scheme to aid the whisky ring and Babcock.

It is ascertained from reliable sources that Secretary Bristow does not know Hobart, of Cincinnati, with whom the *Inter-Ocean* charges he always stays when in that city.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Soldier Killed in Texas.

BROWNSVILLE, December 25.—John Bradley, a private in Company H, Eighth Cavalry, a new recruit from Chicago, was found dead this morning, at the edge of the town, stabbed through the heart and his pockets rifled of their contents. When last seen, about midnight, he was leaving a barroom opposite the market with a woman and two men, all Mexicans. Bradley had about twenty dollars on his person. He was a sailor, and came originally from Liverpool, and was thirty-eight years old. Juana Galica, a desperate female character, who is said to have already murdered two men, has been arrested under the suspicion of having killed Bradley.

Christmas Row in Louisville—Five Men Wounded.

LOUISVILLE, December 25.—During a row in an underground saloon early this morning, in which more than two dozen were engaged, five received wounds. The affair grew out of an old grudge of the leaders, and terminated in a general fight, in which knives, pistols and chairs were used promiscuously. Robert Clemmons was seriously stabbed in the neck; Robert Atwell had his nose partly cut off; John Mitchell was cut in the shoulder; John McQurk was cut in the face twice, and John Griffin was cut in the face and hip.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—For Tennessee, Ohio, the Upper Mississippi and Lower Missouri Valleys and the Upper Lakes, rising barometer, cooler northwest winds and clear weather followed in the latter sections by falling barometer and southerly winds.

The St. Louis Police Commissioners have issued orders to arrest everybody engaged in selling Missouri State lottery tickets, or those of any other lottery scheme.

The Commercial Bank of San Francisco suspended Friday afternoon. It is a small concern with about $30,000 of liabilities, fully secured. The President hopes to resume this morning.

The leading American residents of Berlin have called a meeting to protest against the strictures of the German press on American character in their comments on the Bremerhaven dynamite plot.

In the foreclosure of what is known as the fifth mortgage against the Erie Railway Company, proceedings in equity were commenced in the Pike County (Penn.) Court, Friday. H. J. Jewett was appointed Receiver with bonds at $50,000.

When the British troops were withdrawn from Canada in 1870, an agreement was entered into by the Dominion Government with the Imperial Government, to spend one million dollars annually in keeping up the defensive force of the militia for five years. As that time expires with the present month, the Dominion Parliament will consider the militia question at the approaching session, and it is said that the Government will largely reduce expenditures.

PHILADELPHIA.

Taking Testimony in Bowen Libel Suit—The Mount Moriah Cemetery Case—Moody and Sankey Meetings.

PHILADELPHIA, December 25.—At the office of Richard L. Ashurst, Esq., in this city, yesterday afternoon, testimony was taken before Samuel C. Perkins, Esq., Commissioner for the State of New York, on behalf of the defendant in the libel suit of Henry C. Bowen, of the New York *Independent*, against the publishers of the Brooklyn *Eagle*. Mr. Edwin M. Lewis, assignee of Jay Cooke & Co., was examined at length, his evidence showing that Bowen entered into contract with Jay Cooke & Co. to publish advertisements of the offering for sale of the bonds of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and in addition to use the editorial columns of his paper to convince his readers of the necessity of selling out Government bonds and investing in those of the corporation. In return for this Bowen was to receive bonds of the Northern Pacific Railroad and a percentage on sales. Receipts were exhibited for advances made to Bowen in pursuance of the agreement, the signatures to which were identified by a former attache of the Brooklyn *Union*, a paper also published by the plaintiff. The *Eagle* was represented at the examination by Jesse Johnson, Esq., of the New York bar.

PHILADELPHIA, December 25.—In the Court of Common Pleas yesterday a very important case was decided on a writ of mandamus to compel the managers of the Mount Moriah Cemetery Company to accept the body of Henry Jones, a wealthy colored caterer, for burial. In September last, when the funeral procession with Jones' body was *en route* to the cemetery, an agent of the company stopped the cortege and told them it was no use to take the body to the burying ground, as it would not be received. The remains were then taken to a colored cemetery and there deposited. Counsel for the widow immediately took action, and as the managers were firm in their determination the matter was carried into court on a mandamus. This morning two of the Judges, Ludlow (a Democrat) and Virletta (Republican) gave opinions in favor of the complainants, while Judge Lynd (Republican) dissented. The main point at issue in the case was that one W. H. Bolleau had sold the lot to Henry Jones, but when the managers ascertained that he was a colored man they refused to allow the deed to be recorded. Under their charter, they held that unless a record of the sale appeared on their books it was not valid, hence they were willing to go into court, believing they had a strong case. The matter will be carried to the Supreme Court of the State now, the operations of the mandamus being suspended at the request of counsel until an ultimate decision is had. The decision has created considerable excitement among the lot holders, who are greatly averse to having a colored person interred in their cemetery, believing that the knowledge of the fact will deter other persons from buying lots, and thus depreciate the value of the property.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 25, 1875.

THE BOND-FORGERS—HEAVY VERDICT IN A CIVIL SUIT AGAINST THEM.

The trial of the suit brought in the Superior Court by the New York Guaranty and Indemnity Company against Andrew L. and Lydia J. Roberts, Charles Ralston, Valentine Gleason, Charles J. Williamson, Gottleib Engels, Horace S. Carp and Amelia A. Gleason, was ended this morning, when the jury came in and rendered a verdict for the plaintiffs of $88,011 51, being the full amount claimed, with interest. On motion, an extra allowance of two and one-half per cent. was given to the plaintiffs' counsel. The counsel for the defense then made a motion for a new trial on the Judge's minutes, but this was refused. They were given, however, a stay of sixty days to enable them to prepare the case on appeal. The suit thus concluded is the second civil suit for damages growing out of the operations of the daring gang of bond forgers, whose extensive operations made themselves so severely felt in commercial circles throughout the country in 1873. The defendants in the present case are alleged to have been associated with the notorious "Spence" Pettis, and to have engaged in a conspiracy to flood the stock market with spurious bonds. The arrangements made by the gang were exceedingly well contrived. The ramifications of the conspiracy extended even abroad, a scheme having been entered into with Macdonell, the English forger, and others to put about $500,000 of the bonds on the London market. The arrest of Macdonnell and of "Spence" Pettis for other offenses put an end to the scheme, and the details of the conspiracy were laid bare. No less than thirty-seven indictments were found against Pettis, Roberts, and the others. Roberts was tried on one indictment in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, but the jury failed to agree. The other indictments have not as yet been brought to a trial. Before the conspiracy was discovered, however, the alleged forgers managed to obtain loans from various institutions, depositing as collateral security a number of the forged bonds. Over $20,000 was obtained in this way from the National Trust Company, and $75,000 was obtained from the New York Guaranty and Indemnity Company on a deposit of $94,000 of forged Buffalo, New York and Erie Railroad bonds. While Gleason and Roberts were imprisoned, the discovery was made that over $100,000 of good securities were lodged in one of the safe deposit companies of this city for safe keeping, by them and the other defendants. This amount was promptly attached and handed over to the custody of the authorities. As soon as the discovery was made, the National Trust Company brought suit to recover the amount fraudulently obtained from them, and did recover judgment in July last for more than $35,000. The Guaranty and Indemnity Company then brought the suit just decided, and received the amount of $88,011 51, as above stated, after a trial lasting three weeks. Both judgments are to be satisfied out of the property attached. Roberts and Gleason are still in Ludlow Street Jail under the orders of arrest obtained against them. A noteworthy feature of the cases was the reading of the deposition of "Spence" Pettis, who is now serving a term for another forgery in the Massachusetts State Prison. Mrs. Pettis is dissatisfied, and, like her husband, against Roberts and the remainder.

NOTHING OF TWEED.

No news has been received at the Sheriff's office relative to the report that William M. Tweed was in Havana. Sheriff Connor was in attendance all day in expectation that he might obtain an answer to his dispatch making inquiries as to the foundation of the rumor, but no response came up to the time for closing the department. Mr. Connor is still under the impression that the story is a hoax.

CHARLES O'CONOR IMPROVING.

Mr. O'Conor on awaking this morning appeared to be considerably improved. He ate his usual breakfast of toast, tea and fruit with relish. During the day he was bright and talkative, and listened with interest to the reading of the morning papers. About three o'clock he partook of a dinner of broiled chicken and tea. Ex-Judge Peabody, Sydney Webster, August Belmont and Wheeler H. Peckham called upon the patient and held brief interviews with him. Dr. Keyes visited Mr. O'Conor late to-night, and was of the opinion that he was improving.

OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS.

Christmas was ushered in with a driving rain storm, which degenerated into a drizzle that continued intermittingly throughout the day. The people had hardly ceased making preparations for the social observance of the festival when the religious services were begun, with the midnight, in a few of the Catholic churches, and in all of these churches from early morning until noon now and then solemn high masses were celebrated for crowded congregations. The Episcopal churches were filled to their utmost capacity, especially Trinity, where the music and decorations are ever grandest and most tasteful. In most of the churches of other denominations special services were held, and in the lecture rooms of nearly all the Christmas tree was raised and lavish preparations for the children. In the charitable institutions the Christmas dinner was provided for the inmates, while the newsboys, in their two homes, were bountifully provided for by Rev. Father Drumgorie and Mr. William M. Fleess. In neighboring cities services were of a similar character.

Storm in Hamilton County, Ohio.

CINCINNATI, December 25.—A severe storm of wind, rain and lightning visited the country north and northwest of this city this afternoon. Near Bushville, Indiana, a freight train was overturned by a tree on the track. At Hamilton, Ohio, the Miami river swelled rapidly, flooding cellars on the west side of the river. At Carthage, Ohio, Hamilton county, the Infirmary was partly unroofed.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Next Republican National Convention.

Cleveland Strongly Urged as the Place.

That City or Cincinnati or Chicago Likely to be Selected.

Arsenal Near Baltimore Recommended for Abolition.

Candidates for Senator from Kentucky.

Secretary Belknap's Chances Good for the Iowa Senatorship.

Our Dispute With Mexico—Texans to be Protected from Border Raids.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 26, 1875.

One Superfluous Arsenal.

The board of army officers appointed to visit the United States arsenals east of the Mississippi river and to report upon their condition and usefulness, with a view to the abolition of such as might be dispensed with, recommend the retention of all except that near Baltimore.

Place for Republican National Convention.

Several Ohio politicians now in the city will urge the selection of Cleveland as the place for holding the next Republican Convention. It is said that Cleveland has all the requisites necessary to the holding of a Convention. Not only is it west of the mountains, which seems to be desired, but the effect will be salutary. An effort will also be made in favor of Philadelphia, but doubtless without success. Those here best advised on the subject think that the place most likely to be chosen is Cleveland, Cincinnati or Chicago.

The Kentucky Senatorship.

The election of a Senator from Kentucky in January, makes it quite lively amongst Kentuckians here. The most prominent persons mentioned are the present Senator (Stevenson), ex-Representative Beck, Gen. Williams and Governor Leslie.

Belknap's Senatorial Prospects.

A private letter from Iowa alludes to General Belknap's chances for the Senatorship from that State as the best. Should he be elected, he would not necessarily resign the portfolio of war, as his term would not commence until after the expiration of the present administration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 25, 1875.

WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN DROWNED IN THE POTOMAC.

Last evening a colored man named Simms, residing in Uniontown, D. C., while driving home from Washington drove on an old bridge crossing the eastern branch of the Potomac, and his horse becoming unmanageable backed overboard with the wagon containing the wife, child and an adopted son of Simms, all of whom were drowned. Simms escaped.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 26, 1875.

OUR MEXICAN BORDER—THE GOVERNMENT DISPOSED TO PROTECT TEXANS FROM RAIDS—CORRESPONDENCE OF MINISTER FOSTER ON THE SUBJECT.

The continued raids of Mexican thieves across the Rio Grande into Texas is attracting the serious attention of the Administration, and it is believed that the President will make this matter the subject of a special message at an early day. It has always been the policy of the Administration to deal in the most generous manner with the Government of Mexico in all questions affecting the interests of the two countries. This has been especially true in regard to the question of depredations committed by Mexicans on the Texas border. The Mexican Government is always ready with fair promises, but none of them have been kept. The condition of affairs on the Rio Grande has grown worse year by year, and now the Administration has reached the conclusion that the Government of Mexico is powerless to prevent raids, and that in order to protect the life and property of American citizens of the border, it will be necessary to adopt some secure measures of defense, even at the risk of causing a breach of the friendly relations existing between the two Governments. It is even suggested that the Mexican Government will be officially notified that further aggressions on the Rio Grande will be considered as a *casus belli* and acted on, and if the nuisance is not then abated promptly and effectually, let the declaration of war be followed by the act itself, and that without unnecessary loss of time.

From official correspondence it appears that sometime since Minister Foster asked permission of the Mexican Government for regular troops of the United States to follow raiders across the border when in close pursuit, or permission to temporarily occupy certain points on the Mexican side where the raiders are accustomed to come across the river. The reply of the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs was that the Executive had no authority to grant such permission without the consent of Congress, and that it would not be prudent to ask such consent, as the requisite amount of the country would not approve it. Mr. Foster was authorized to give assurance that the Government had no design of acquiring an extension of territory, and that the acknowlegment of the Mexican Government of its inability to restrain the lawlessness of its citizens would afford the strongest possible argument to all the advocates of the acquisition of territory there may be in the United States. Mr. Foster further said that the citizens of Texas must be protected, and that if protection did not come from the Mexican Government it must come from ours.

COURT OF ALABAMA CLAIMS.

The President has signed the bill further extending the time of the duration of the Court of Commissioners of Alabama Claims to the 22d of July next.

The Bridge Across the Allegheny River—Letter of James Rees and Report of Major Merrill on the Subject.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 21, 1875.

The annual report of the Chief of Engineers for 1875, just issued from the Government printing office, under the head of Reports upon Bridging the Navigable Waters of the United States, contains the following letter and report of Major William E. Merrill, Corps of Engineers, on the bridge across the Allegheny river at Pittsburgh:

BRIDGE ACROSS THE ALLEGHENY RIVER AT PITTSBURGH.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, }
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1874. }

SIR: The letter of James Rees, of Pittsburgh, requesting that the bridge in course of construction over the Allegheny river at that city be placed on piers of sufficient length to prevent obstruction to navigation, &c., submitted June 23, 1874, to the War Department by Hon. J. S. Negley, and referred to this office for report, is herewith respectfully returned.

I beg leave to state that the subject was referred to Major Merrill, Corps of Engineers, and the papers have been returned by him with a report, of which the inclosed is a copy.

It seems that the bridge in question was authorized by act of the State of Pennsylvania, approved March 13, 1873, entitled "An act to incorporate the Union Bridge Company;" that the bridge is completed, and that in Major Merrill's opinion it "is a serious and unnecessary obstruction to navigation." He recommends that measures be at once taken to compel its owners to make such modifications as will permit the safe passage of the boats that usually navigate the Ohio up to Pittsburgh." He thinks that "the injury caused by this bridge can be remedied by the removal of a part of the bridge and the insertion of a draw. This draw should give two clear openings of 120 feet each, measured on the line of low-water, and should be placed in any part of the bridge except that covered by the southern span. No riprap whatever should be permitted in the draw-openings. Lastly, the serious damage caused by the construction of this bridge under a defective State law, without the consent of the United States, again calls up the urgent necessity of placing the subject of the bridging of all navigable waters under United States law, and of positively prohibiting the construction of any bridge over such waters without the previous approval of the plans by the Secretary of War or some other high official of the General Government."

Major Merrill's views meet with my concurrence.

Under existing laws the Secretary of War has no authority to remedy this evil.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
A. A. HUMPHREYS,
Brig. Gen. and Chief of Engineers.
Hon. W. W. BELKNAP, Secretary of War.

REPORT OF MAJOR WILLIAM E. MERRILL, CORPS OF ENGINEERS.

UNITED STATES ENGINEER OFFICE,
No. 82 WEST THIRD STREET,
CINCINNATI, O., December 2, 1874.

GENERAL: In accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of June 30, 1874, transmitting a communication from Hon. James Rees, of Pittsburgh, against the construction of the "Union" bridge over the Allegheny river, connecting Pittsburgh with Allegheny city, I have the honor to submit the following report. It has been delayed until now because I had to wait for the completion of the necessary map and elevation.

The so called "Union" bridge connects the Pittsburgh "Point" (the apex of the tongue of land lying between the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers) with a causeway built out from the western bank of the Allegheny river nearly on the prolongation of Tremont street.

The bridge was built under authority from the State of Pennsylvania. An official copy of the charter of the bridge company is attached and marked Appendix A. Section 3 contains the conditions prescribed for the protection of navigation. It reads as follows:

SEC. 2 That the said Union Bridge Company are hereby authorized to build, erect and construct a bridge over the Allegheny river, at any practicable point on Duquesne way, between Second street and the Monongahela river, and Allegheny avenue, or any other practicable point in the city of Allegheny: *Provided*, That the erection of said bridge shall not obstruct the navigation of said river so as to endanger the passage of rafts, steamboats or other water crafts; and the piers shall not be so placed as to interfere with tow-boats proceeding out with their tows made up, and shall be constructed in such manner as to meet the requisitions of the law in regard to the obstructions of navigation.

This section is exceedingly vague, and does not prescribe either the style of bridge, the width of spans, or the height above high water. The last clause says that the bridge "shall be constructed in such manner as to meet the requisitions of the law in regard to the obstructions of navigation." The exact force of this clause I am unable to discover, not knowing what is "the law" whose requisitions must be met. I think that the reference must be to common law, as I do not think there is any general statute governing this case.

The bridge was nearly completed when I received the order to report, upon it, and I was furnished before Lieutenant Mahan had time to make the survey and the elevation. I did not deem it advisable to delay the execution of this special survey over the general survey of the harbor of Pittsburgh, which Lieutenant Mahan was ordered to execute. The injury has already done, and no remedy could be applied save by Congress, which would not meet until December.

When the elevation of the Union bridge was taken, the water surface stood at five feet on the water gauge on the St. Clair street bridge, over the Allegheny. This bridge is 2,900 feet above the Union bridge, and parallel to it. It does not appear on the accompanying sketch, but its exact position may be seen on the preliminary map of the harbor of Pittsburgh, forwarded on the 27th of October, and it will be shown more fully on the large map of this harbor, which is nearly ready, and from which the accompanying sketch was taken. After the survey was made the water fell 1¼ feet, and read 2.50 on the St. Clair street bridge gauge. This may be taken as the low water mark in the Allegheny.

The high water of 1832, the highest known, reads on the same gauge 34.32; high water of 1862 reads 31.49. The oscillation between high and low water at the bridge is, therefore, 30.89 feet.

The Union bridge is built for highway traffic only, and consists of five fixed spans, each measuring 212 feet between centers, and giving 200 feet of clear opening on the low water line. The superstructure is composed of iron trusses, strengthened by arches. The total length of the bridge proper is 1,061 feet from abutment to abutment, and is without a draw. The northern abutment is built out in the river to a distance of 80 feet from the bank, with which it is connected by an earthen causeway, whose upper surface is above the high water mark. There is no engineering objection to this causeway, and it only crosses Smoky Island bar. If the right bank of the Allegheny river above Smoky Island bar be protected, the causeway will form a solid bank at all stages. This space was always occupied by steamboats during the great rise in the main harbor in the Monongahela, which is usually excessively crowded with coal towboats and barges. The use of the Allegheny has been entirely destroyed by the Union bridge, as large boats cannot get under the bridge in any high rise of water, and small boats cannot do so when the water is above average stages.

The floor of the Union bridge gradually rises from each abutment toward the middle on a grade of one foot to seventy seven, the middle span being horizontal. The first span above high-water mark, measured at the middle point of each span, is as follows: seven feet nine feet nine and three-quarters inches, eleven feet one inch, nine and three-quarters feet, seven feet. It is thus evident that the river is higher than a skiff or a raft could pass under this bridge in high water.

In each span the water spaces under the middle of the spans are as follows: Thirty-seven feet ten inches, forty feet seven inches, forty-two feet, forty feet seven inches, and thirty-seven feet ten inches. The average height of a passenger steamboat's pilot house is forty-eight feet, and those of first-class coal towboats vary from forty to forty-six feet. These boats are always looking for the smallest of these boats is extreme low water, but at that stage these boats cannot come down Smoky Island bar. We therefore see that the construction of this bridge has entirely closed the Allegheny river to all but the smallest tow boats.

The manufacturers of Pittsburgh have for many years been agitating the subject of the bridging of the rivers at that point, beginning at Pittsburgh. Their special desire has been to secure the control of Pittsburgh bar, so as to secure a constant depth of navigable water throughout the Allegheny as well as the Monongahela river. After several years of investigation and study I have finally matured a plan for securing all that they desire, and this plan is now before Congress for its approval. The plan contemplates the construction of movable dams. The first of which will be below McKee's Rocks, and is designed to raise the river surface from ten feet above low water so as to secure in the upper parts of Pittsburgh harbor a depth of not less than six feet. To thoroughly utilize this improved harbor it is essential that first-class boats should be able to navigate the Allegheny and Monongahela harbors with freedom. But the bridge now being constructed, as the mouth of the Allegheny, and thus destroys half of the benefit to be derived from the proposed improvement. The bridges over the main rivers on the Allegheny will be accessible only by barges and small tugs, while they should be within reach of first-class steamboats.

Another point to which attention should be called is the width of the piers and abutments of this bridge. The Board of Engineers on Ohio river bridges recommend that no bridge piers shall be permitted around piers of bridges over navigable rivers, and in accordance with their recommendation I have also in the case before the construction of bridges over the Ohio river expressly prohibits the use of riprap in channel-spaces. In this case all the abutments and piers are surrounded by riprap extending into the channel to a width of 50 feet from the bank, with which it is connected by an earthen causeway, whose upper surface is above the high water mark. There is no engineering objection to this causeway, and it only crosses Smoky Island bar. If the right bank of the Allegheny river above Smoky Island bar be protected, the causeway will form a solid bank at all stages. This space was always occupied by steamboats during the great rise in the main harbor in the Monongahela, which is usually excessively crowded with coal towboats and barges. The use of the Allegheny has been entirely destroyed by the Union bridge, as large boats cannot get under the bridge in any high rise of water, and small boats cannot do so when the water is above average stages.

The floor of the Union bridge gradually rises from each abutment toward the middle on a grade of one foot to seventy seven, the middle span being horizontal. The first span above high-water mark, measured at the middle point of each span, is as follows: seven feet nine feet nine and three-quarters inches, eleven feet one inch, nine and three-quarters feet, seven feet. It is thus evident that the river is higher than a skiff or a raft could pass under this bridge in high water.

In each span the water spaces under the middle of the spans are as follows: Thirty-seven feet ten inches, forty feet seven inches, forty-two feet, forty feet seven inches, and thirty-seven feet ten inches. The average height of a passenger steamboat's pilot house is forty-eight feet, and those of first-class coal towboats vary from forty to forty-six feet. These boats are always looking for the smallest of these boats is extreme low water, but at that stage these boats cannot come down Smoky Island bar. We therefore see that the construction of this bridge has entirely closed the Allegheny river to all but the smallest tow boats.

The manufacturers of Pittsburgh have for many years been agitating the subject of the bridging of the rivers at that point, beginning at Pittsburgh. Their special desire has been to secure the control of Pittsburgh bar, so as to secure a constant depth of navigable water throughout the Allegheny as well as the Monongahela river. After several years of investigation and study I have finally matured a plan for securing all that they desire, and this plan is now before Congress for its approval. The plan contemplates the construction of movable dams. The first of which will be below McKee's Rocks, and is designed to raise the river surface ten feet above low water,

The Commercial.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1875.

THE foreign exports of Philadelphia last week amounted to $348,108.

IT seems that the Speaker led from a sneak when he played Morrison—so as to trump with Fernando Wood next time around—*Ohio State Journal*.

THE Indianapolis *Journal* recommends the fire-eaters in Congress to rally around Mount Vesuvius, which is getting ready for a grand eruption.

GOVERNOR HENDRICKS, of Indiana, "has consented" to address the Southern States Agricultural Society at New Orleans in February next. This, of course, is a flank movement on PENDLETON.

THE new Chairman of Ways and Means has had his lungs perforated by a bullet, and cannot make a long speech. This is good for the House, but how is such a short-winded nag going to keep the lead?

WEST VIRGINIA is a State without commerce; for which reason, we suppose, Mr. KERR appointed Mr. HEREFORD, of that State, as Chairman of the Committee on Commerce. Seven of his ten colleagues are likewise from the interior.

THE future drawing of any lottery schemes, or the sale of tickets, or the advertising of sales of tickets or schemes for drawings, in Missouri, is prohibited. Kentucky still permits and encourages this abominable system of public plunder.

IT APPEARS that out West there is a steady falling off both in the number of granges of Patrons of Husbandry and of their membership. In Iowa alone seventy sub granges have become defunct during the present year. The principal officers of the various State granges receive quite liberal salaries.

SAYS the Cincinnati *Commercial*: "We do not know a Democratic politician who is not electioneering for GRANT for the next Republican candidate. They have been at it for some months, and are in the habit of demonstrating, by a peculiar process of their own, that the Republicans must nominate GRANT."

PINCHBACK, the truculent, has at length yielded up his fight for the United States Senate, and will resign before the Louisiana Legislature adjourns, in order that his successor may be elected. It is not unlikely, however, that the color question may again arise. There is too much clannishness among the Republicans of the South.

THE Philadelphia court, after a cogitation of three months, has finally decided to issue a mandamus to the Mount Moriah Cemetery Association, directing it to permit the interment of the body of HENRY JONES, who was denied burial because he was so unfortunate as to have a colored skin. The case will be taken up to the Supreme Court on an appeal.

THE Mississippi White Leaguers have now attacked a United States official and compelled him to seek safety in flight, the victim being a Deputy Internal Revenue Collector. This isn't exactly the way in which to hasten the advent of that millenium of good feeling for which, according to Congressman LAMAR, the Democrats of Mississippi "hunger and yearn."

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer*, which is good Democratic authority, speaks of the newly appointed Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee as "a brawling, empty-headed, unknown village politician of Waterloo, Illinois." But as the Democratic side of the House is chiefly made up of that class, MORRISON may still be regarded as a representative man.

CANADA wants the provisions of the Extradition Treaty with us so extended as to prevent criminals, either here or there, from taking advantage of a long line of boundary in effecting their escape. Certainly it would seem to be clearly to the interest of both countries to effect such an extension of the treaty as will further the ends of justice. Both Governments ought to be in favor of the measure.

THE Indianapolis *Journal* is another Republican paper which believes that the regular army might be reduced without jeopardizing the interests of the country. It says:

"It is proposed to reduce the regular army to 15,000 men by stopping promotions and new appointments, and gradually mustering out all supernumerary officers. We are inclined to believe that a well-organized army of that size is all the nucleus the country needs for a military establishment."

TEN years have elapsed since WILLIAM BUTLER DUNCAN assumed control of the great banking house of DUNCAN, SHERMAN & Co., with a capital estimated at $3,000,000. It was a time of inflation, and he entered into a variety of wild schemes, one of which was the petroleum bubble. The entire capital is now gone, the loss being equal to $1,000 a day. A few days ago his private library was sold at public auction. Such is the humiliating lesson of a grand fortune whose ample means might have been wasted in ridiculous speculations.

THE Democratic House leaders are a good deal by the ears with regard to the subject of "investigation." Of course there will be no end of "investigations" of a strictly partisan character, but just where to commence they don't know. And some of the older heads begin, wisely enough, to doubt the popularity of these investigations. Anything that the Administration does to punish its own derelict officers is approved by the people, but when Democrats, solely for party ends, begin the work, it is a very open question whether it will tend to strengthen the opposition.

A DISPATCH from Washington city states that, so far as heard from, the majority of members of the National Democratic Committee are opposed to holding the next Democratic National Convention east of Cincinnati. Some of the Eastern members want the Convention held in Pittsburgh. The Committee is not to be called together until after the Republican Committee have selected their location, which will be done on the 13th proximo. We speak for the entire city when we beg the Committee not to think of Pittsburgh as a possible place for such a Convention.

THE last and one of the greatest achievements of Col. THOMAS A. SCOTT, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, was the completion, in three hours less than twenty-one days from the time of the authorization of the work, of a new bridge at Market street, in Philadelphia, to take the place of one destroyed by fire a few weeks ago. At one o'clock on Friday afternoon the new structure was opened to travel, thus relieving other overcrowded avenues. It was a very appropriate Christmas gift to the city.

THEY are catching a glimpse of the Pope's toe across the Northern border, now. At a densely crowded meeting held in Montreal on Friday night to organize the "Protestant Defense Alliance of Canada," the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the increasingly aggressive spirit of the Romish hierarchy in this province, as shown not only in influencing the Government and Legislature, but in other ways affecting civil and religious rights and liberties of this Dominion, as well as in the persecution of those who have left the Church of Rome, renders it necessary for Protestants and others to unite and resist these encroachments, and to extend sympathy to those suffering for conscience sake.

IT is stated that quite a number of the more enterprising colored people of the Gulf States are turning their eyes to Africa. Over six hundred in one company in Alabama are only waiting to dispose of their lands and other property to advantage, when, with some thousands of dollars of capital, they propose to seek their fortunes in what may prove their mother if not their fatherland. Between thirty and forty intelligent colored men are already, it appears, being educated in New York as missionaries for the same region by different churches, each of whom will be accompanied by a number of industrious and thrifty followers. Possibly the missionaries for whom STANLEY calls are now waiting in this country.

THE New York *Bulletin* thinks that the year is closing with symptoms of some improvement in the condition of business affairs. During the present month there has been a marked falling off in the number of failures, which is the more remarkable considering that the settlements to be made in the last month of the year are always the severest test of the resources of men of business. The *Bulletin* says:

"Failures are in the best times expected at the end of the year; but at present they are few and insignificant. Another welcome symptom is the growing activity in the money market. It is refreshing to find the rate for call loans quoted at plump seven per cent.; and this not the result of any temporary speculative manipulation, but of a healthier demand for loans and of a growing disposition throughout the country to employ capital which has long laid idle. There seems to be some reason to hope that 1876 will open with a better feeling."

THE GREENBACK.

We confess to an unshaken confidence in the national currency, which carried the nation safely through its struggle to maintain its existance. The greenback is linked, by a thousand patriotic associations, with our grand national contest, and as it helped to carry the country through the crisis of its fate, we can see no good reason for being in a hurry to get rid of it. There are solid and strong arguments for allowing the holders of national currency to fund it in national bonds, if they want to; but there are no arguments to justify the country in wishing to drive that money out of circulation.

The President, in his message of December, 1873, declared that our greenbacks were the best currency this country ever had, if not the best in the world, and said it ought to be increased with the rising demands of trade, and that the volume then issued was not more than enough for the season when the demands of trade were at lowest tide.

The people, then, coincided very thoroughly with the President in his sentiment on this subject; and he made excuse them if they seem slow in coming to his present changed conclusion that we should get rid of this currency as soon as possible and deprive it of that which gives it value, its legal tender character.

The greenback currency is as good now as it was in 1873, and it has lost none of its hold on public confidence. Its constitutionality has been affirmed by the Supreme Court, and whatever doubts there may be as to the constitutional right of Congress to authorize any further increase of it in times of pesce, there can be no question as to the legality of the notes in circulation. They have upon them the stamp of our supreme judicial authority; and as this currency is confessedly sound, safe and legal, why should it not continue to be kept in circulation?

The legislation which made these notes a legal tender in the payment of debts was, in effect, a contract of the Government with the people by which, in return for the public confidence given to the notes so issued, the Government agreed to confer upon them the attributes of actual money. Is it fair or honest for the Government now to violate its part of the contract? There is, of course, no legal power to enforce such a contract; but there is a moral force behind it which should render it sacred. The Government is morally bound to maintain, unchanged, the character which, in the hour of its extremity, it gave to this currency.

We protest, therefore, against any attempt to demonetize the greenbacks. If anything further is done by Congress with reference to their value, it should be to enhance, not to depreciate their worth. It may provide for their redemption in gold upon presentation, or for funding them in national bonds, and either or both of these courses would add to their actual value; but it would be ruinous, as well as a gross and inexcusable breach of faith to destroy their value as legal tenders. "Let well enough alone" is good advice in all that concerns the business affairs of an individual, and it is equally good as advice to the National Government. The entire community is satisfied with the greenbacks as they are, and why not, therefore, leave them alone?

There is not, we know, a great deal of financial wisdom in Congress; but we trust there is enough to resist the specious but bad advice to take away from our national currency its monetary character. If the nation is compelled to choose between greenbacks and national bank notes, the latter will most certainly go to the wall. It will be better not to drive the people to such a choice. The greenbacks have served an admirable purpose, and are still acceptable to the general public as a national currency. It would be the supremest folly, consequently, to throw them aside by depriving them of what has given them value and character. We are in favor of applying to this, as to all other worthy objects, the apostolic injunction of "hold fast to that which is good;" and whatever shape the financial question may take, as to the matter of the redemption of the greenbacks, let us hold on firmly to that system of national currency which has so far stood every test safely.

THE Chicago *Inter-Ocean* of Saturday devotes several columns to the publication of a highly sensational but wholly improbable story to the effect that, under the law which provides that any man appearing before the Senate or House, or a committee of either, separate or joint, and who shall testify to any facts in his possession, such testimony shall not be used to his hurt in any criminal proceeding which may be instituted against him, General BABCOCK has been invited to appear before a Congressional committee, to be composed of four Democrats and three Republicans, with RANDALL as chairman, and relate fully all he knows concerning the whisky ring. The account says that BABCOCK has accepted the proposition, and that he threatens to show that BRISTOW "has from the start been as deep in the mud as JOYCE is now in the penitentiary." If, which we do not believe, there is any such project afoot, the object of course is to freeze out proceedings against him in the courts of St. Louis. It won't work, however. If General BABCOCK has any proofs of conspiracy against the Government between Secretary BRISTOW and the whisky ring, the United States Court is the proper place in which to produce them. BABCOCK may be smaller game than BRISTOW, and there may be those who, to save the former, would be willing to drive a stake through the latter. But the people care nothing either for personal friendships, personal enmities, or personal ambitions, in this matter. They want justice done—and they intend that it shall be done. Their motto is "let no guilty man escape."

WHILE STANLEY and CAMERON have been heroically pushing their explorations among the jungles of Central Africa, a Russian geographer, Professor NORDENSKIOLD, has also won unfading laurels by navigating a sea which has always hitherto been regarded as closed by walls of impenetrable ice. The water in question lies between the island of Nova Zembla and the continent of Europe. Some forty-three years ago an expedition to penetrate it was wrecked and never heard of, and twenty years later another was turned back by ice. Professor NORDENSKIOLD, however, sailed through it uninterruptedly, rounding the promontory into the gulf of Obi in Northern Asia, where several great rivers debouch, the region being found rich in grasses, forests and other articles for commercial intercourse. The valleys of these great rivers, the Professor thinks, can be reached from Europe by the route which he has traversed. Most of the inhabitants were long ago swept off by pestilence, and the country is now but sparsely populated. The region lies within the Arctic circle, but the climate is said to be considerably milder than that of Alaska.

AT a meeting of the officers of the National Temperance Alliance, held in New York, arrangements were partly made for an International Temperance Centennial Convention, to be held in Philadelphia about the 10th of June of the coming year. Some of the leading temperance reformers of Great Britain have arranged to be present, and the convention will last at least three days, and sit in sections, as does the Social Science Congress, to discuss the different branches of the subject. It is proposed to have papers on the history and work of each of the temperance organizations and societies in this country and Great Britain, a history of the earlier movements in the temperance reform, histories of the reform in Canada, France, Germany and Sweden, and papers on the legal, medical, moral and religious phases of the reform, all prepared by the men best qualified for their peculiar work. Steps were also taken to secure an expression of the churches of the country on the question of permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors on the Centennial grounds.

The vast extent of our central Territories, called formerly the "Great American Desert," is not generally known. They are larger than the twenty-seven States lying east of the Mississippi river, their aggregate area being 971,073 square miles. Only a small part of this immense quantity of land has been taken up by actual settlers.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The Pope will lend the Centennial some Pius pictures.

Coal is being discovered in about every county of Kansas.

The whisky storm center is shifting from St. Louis to Chicago.

Payment of the January interest on the public debt commences to-day.

There was vivid lightning at Cincinnati at half past two o'clock on Christmas morning.

The South Bend, Indiana, wagon works are making a lot of wheels to go to Germany.

The number of Presidential maggots in the United States is steadily on the increase.

An Indiana hog, killed the other day, was found to have two hearts and two pairs of lungs. What a hog!

The historian Bancroft predicts that the Centennial Exhibition will usher in a golden era upon this country.

The chain-gang is a degrading and barbarous institution, but the West Virginia Legislature is going to establish it.

The New York *Herald's* astrologer discovers that Saturn represents Tweed. Probably on account of its "rings."

The Treasury Department has very properly rejected all propositions lately made for a compromise in the pending whisky cases.

Indiana is worth $57,117,692 less this year than she was a twelvemonth ago, if the assessor's reports are a fair basis of computation.

An immense body of silver ore is said to have been struck in the Little Cottonwood district, much of which lies in the Emma mine property.

The Indianapolis *Sentinel* says that "the Northern Methodist clergy do not come in contact with the better educated people in the South." Well; why?

The "Samoan Commercial and Land Company" has been adjudged bankrupt by the United States Circuit Court of California. Steinberger was interested in this concern.

An extraordinary freak. A wealthy New York lady has just left her fortune to some people whom she bitterly hated, depriving her relatives, whom she loved, of its benefits.

Chicago will be obliged to contribute seven and a quarter millions of dollars in taxes this year, and the plundered taxpayers talk of holding a scheutzenfest, with tax gatherers for targets.

General Sherman, in saying that there is room in America for 40,000,000 who may be willing to toil in the country instead of lingering as clerks around cities, has told a truth that ought to be heeded.

Down in Tennessee they take the scalps of beasts of prey in payment of taxes. If this rule were adopted in Washington there would soon be a mighty thinning out of the ranks of Democratic officeseekers.

It appears that our Ministers and Consuls have been indorsing guide books, patent medicines and invalid chairs extensively of late, over their official titles, and, no doubt, for financial considerations. Stop it at once.

New England schoolmarms have become so plentiful that the papers of that section are begging the fair damsels who are crowding the normal schools to adopt any other occupation or livelihood than teaching.

A man died in the San Antonio Hospital a few days ago with a disease resembling the great London plague. He was covered with large spots and the flesh became putrid, all the symptoms corresponding with those of the olden time plague.

PERSONAL.

The Marquis of Lorne and his wife, the Princess Alice, who is a daughter of Queen Victoria, will visit the Centennial Exhibition.

The Emperor of Brazil, during his visit to this country to attend the Centennial Exhibition, will be entertained by the Brazilian Minister.

General Sutter, on whose land in California gold was first discoverd, is eighty years old, and lives in a poor cottage at Lita, in this State, where he is educating his grandchildren in a German school.

In General Doubleday's new book he states that General Robert Anderson, of Fort Sumter notoriety, told him upon the breaking out of the war that if Kentucky joined the Confederacy he would go to Europe. The writer is probably mistaken. General Anderson, in a speech in May, 1862, declared that if a conflict had arisen between slavery and the Union, slavery must go down.

The *cacoethes scribendi*, in its rounds, has attacked Colonel Baker, of English railway train notoriety. He was formerly a traveler in Central Asia, and is now engaged in writing a history of his wanderings in that *terra incognita*. Col. Baker will enter the Russian military service as soon as his term of imprisonment expires, and endeavor, under the leadership of Kaufmann, to retrieve the dishonor he has brought upon himself.

Earl Stanhope, the English historian and essayist, who died on Saturday, at the age of seventy, was the author of several historical works, and had figured somewhat conspicuously in the world of letters and art. He was elected Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen in 1858, and founded a prize for the study of modern history at Oxford. He was chairman of the National Portrait Gallery, and in 1872 was elected one of the six foreign members of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences at Paris.

The Topeka (Kansas) *Commonwealth* describes the newly-arrived Russian emigrants as somewhat different in appearance and character from their Mennonite fellow-citizens. They wear sheepskin as a covering, the aristocracy affecting long sheepskin coats, with skirts like a woman's dress, a sheepskin collar, and a round cloth cap shaped like a sausage. Every night, in front of the Topeka House, the men and boys assemble and sing. Nearly all their melodies have a strangely plaintive character.

POLITICAL.

General.

A conference of Republicans in Richmond lately discussed the subject of reorganization for the Presidential campaign, and resolved to establish an organ in Richmond.

The Erie (Pa.) *Observer*, a Democratic paper, nominates Gen. Hancock for President. When Grant was running the second time, in 1872, it was understood that the *Observer* concurred with the other organs of its party in the opinion that the country didn't want military men in the White House.—*Troy Times*.

In a very earnest sermon the Rev. Dr. Field, of Bangor, Me., last Sunday took the ground that the enforced reading of the Bible in the public schools could do the cause of religion little good, while the illfeelings and discord it would introduce into the schools would do much harm. Dr. Field also quoted the Rev. Dr. Harris, of the Yale Theological Seminary, as one who holds similar views on the same question.

The fight for the Senatorial succession in Iowa for the seat of Senator Wright, whose term expires in 1877, is already commencing to be waged in a very vigorous manner through the newspapers in that State. Senator Wright having retired from the field some time since, four candidates are already contesting for the place—Harlan, Price, Kirkwood and Secretary Belknap—and the fight is raging fast and furious. Fortunately the Republican margin in Iowa is sufficient to allow of a heated contest without seriously endangering the succession, and a lively canvass may develop such facts as to insure the selection of the best man.

JANUARY MAGAZINES.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The January number of the *Popular Science Monthly* opens with a paper by Herbert Spencer on "The Comparative Psychology of Man," read before the London Anthropological Institute. This is followed by an illustrated paper on "The Horseshoe Nebulæ in Sagittarius," by Prof. E. S. Holden; "Science-Teaching in English Schools," by Rev. W. Tuckwell; "Modern Biological Inquiry," by Dr. John L. Le Conte; "The Sand-Blast," by W. S. Ward, an illustrated paper; "Instinct and Acquisition," by D. A. Spalding; "Prince Rupert's Drops," by William Leighton, Jr., S. B.; "The Ownership of the Dead," by Samuel B. Ruggles, LL.D.; "The Relations of Women to Crime," a second paper on the subject, by Elv Van de Warker, M. D.; "The History of Twins, as a Criterion of the Relative Powers of Nature and Nurture," by Francis Galton, F. R. S.; "The Formation of Sand-Dunes," by E. Lewis, Jr., an illustrated paper; a Sketch of Sir Charles Wheatstone, with a portrait; a letter on "Infirmities of Speech," and the usual editorial departments. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York.

A WRITER who discusses the subject of diet very intelligently, says: "Attention to diet is of the first consequence to those who wish to improve or retain their looks, as well as to enjoy the perfect possession of their faculties." The maxims he lays down for healthy eating are: Masticate thoroughly, in a cheerful, composed humor, and drink in sips. Gentle exercise is allowable after meals. The moment the first appetite is satisfied leave off, and be not tempted by any delicacy to recommence.

STATE NEWS.

Coal has been discovered in Franklin county.

Carl Schurz will lecture in Franklin, January 10th.

A Corry jeweler has a clock which first ticked in 1411.

A ten year old boy of Blair county weighs 118 pounds.

Five brothers in York county are the fathers of fifty-three children.

Tramps are compelled to earn their sustenance and lodging in Meadville.

A prominent Philadelphian has been arrested on the charge of smuggling.

The hog disease is prevailing to an alarming extent in Lehigh county.

A small town in Westmoreland county had two elopements in one day lately.

While preparing to attend the funeral of a friend Samuel Miltenberger, of Monroe county, expired.

A Susquehanna county farmer raised 40,000 heads of cabbage last season on seven acres of ground.

A Williamsport man objects paying a gas bill for the frivilous reason that he has no burners in his house.

Walter Pinkerton, of Lancaster, jumped from a train at Locust Grove, on Thursday, and was instantly killed.

A German watchman was found frozen to death at the Race street wharf, Philadelphia, on Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Reichard, of Rothrocksville, Berks county, celebrated their golden wedding last week.

Mrs. Hannah Miller, of Northampton county, aged eighty years, walked ten miles recently in three hours.

Joseph Groff and wife, of Drumore township, Lancaster county, celebrated their golden wedding last week.

Through a shaft near Wilkesbarre, on Thurday, George Davis fell a distance of 500 feet and was instantly killed.

Last week Samuel Bogart, of Columbia county, who killed his father-in-law with a pitchfork, was convicted of manslaughter.

Meadville has been selected by the State Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, as the place for holding their next annual meeting.

One hundred and thirty-two ties for a railroad were recently cut from one tree in Washington county. One log furnished forty-three.

A young man, name unknown, lost his life by inhaling the fumes of sulphur at a limekiln, in the suburbs of Reading, on Thursday night.

The annual convention of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association will be held at the Court House in Meadville, on Wednesday and Thursday.

Mrs. Charles Erhard, of Williamsport, was probably fatally burned on the 21st inst., by her clothes catching fire while she was at work near the stove.

The flat has gone forth in Philadelphia that all owners of clipped horses which are not properly blanketed in the streets are to be arrested for cruelty to animals.

The Avondale relief fund has been wound up, the last payment having been made last week. The amount distributed among the sufferers was $170,075 60.

What's in a name? A man named Theophilus Grammarstine was arrested in a town down the Reading Railroad for punching another fellow in the head.

Last week a little daughter of James Gross, Chester county, got something fast in her throat while eating supper at a children's party and was strangled to death.

North Patton, a young man living near Allensville, Mifflin county, accidentally shot himself, on the 17th inst., while loading a pistol. He is not expected to survive.

Lebanon has a citizen who boasts that in the course of forty years he has been arraigned before the courts of justice twenty-one times, and yet has never been found guilty.

A work house is being built at the Dauphin county poor house, and it is proposed to make the tramps who come to that institution earn their rations. This is a proper movement.

A Bucks county man going home the other evening stooped at a spring by the wayside to drink. In the morning he was found dead, with his mouth and nose just under the water.

The jury in the case of the Catholic priest, Pistorius, tried this week in Norristown for the murder of a man named Jaquette, in May last, returned a verdict last night of murder in the first degree.

John Manifold, of Lower Chanceford township, York county, has been Postmaster at Muddy Creek Fords for forty-three years, having received his first appointment under President Jackson in 1832.

Henry Seyfert, of the well known firm of Seyfert, McManus & Co., of Reading, died on Thursday evening, in the early fourth year of his age. John McManus, another member of the firm, died last June.

A masked man attacked a married woman on the public road in York county, recently. He threatened to kill her if she made any alarm. She had taken her pocketbook he committed an outrage on her.

Martin Stanton, of Wayne county, was struck in the eye recently with an umbrella. His brain has become affected, and his death is expected. John McAndrews, who made the umbrella in his eye, has been arrested.

A horse attached to a wagon containing two persons ran away in Lehigh county. One of the men (Trumbore) jumped out and was instantly killed, and the other (Jacob Correll) died from injuries received.

One of the leading lawyers of Hollidaysburg, Thaddeus Banks, Esq., slipped and fell on one of the sidewalks of that village on Monday, and a broken leg was the result. He will be laid up for repairs for several weeks.

Mrs. Skinner's millinery store in Titusville was robbed of about $600 worth of goods on Tuesday morning before daylight. Meising's Hotel, unoccupied, was fired by incendiaries, at about the same hour, and partially destroyed.

Joseph Schneider, who served under the Little Corporal, and participated in the terrible march to Moscow, has just died in Pottsville, aged eighty-six years. He bore on his person the scars of eighteen wounds received while serving under Napoleon.

Twenty-seven farmers of Unity township, Westmoreland county, publish in a local paper a notice against trespassers coming on their premises to hunt game. They declare that all persons who are caught doing so will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

The Reading Company are tearing down the houses which have been standing in groups around their mines, and known as "patches," and propose that their men shall reside in the larger towns, where more comfort, order and better morals prevail.

Charles West, of Monroe county, who died recently at the age of eight-one, bequeathed all his estate (worth about ten thousand dollars) to the Methodist church. His housekeeper for the past ten years does not cherish his memory very gratefully.

A Lycoming man boasted of having made a sausage thirty feet in length, but had the wind taken out of his sails by a Northumberland countian, who fabricated two that measured thirty-seven and forty-three yards each. Talk about "linked sweetness long drawn out!"

E. C. Hicks, convicted in the Luzerne County Court of voluntary manslaughter, was fined fifty dollars and sentenced to imprisonment for one year and one month. Hicks killed a man while passing along a lonely road, one dark night, fearing that he would be assaulted.

In Tuscarora township, Perry county, there resides Mrs. Sarah Mallatt, said to be in her 105th year. The Perry County *Democrat* says: "Her eyesight is said to be very good—seeing to thread the finest needle, and read almost any kind of print without the aid of spectacles. Her health is also good, being able to do most any kind of work about the house."

John L. Morison retires from the Sharon *Herald*, and C. W. Ray will hereafter conduct the paper. The former was connected with the *Herald* for seven years, and retires with a consciousness of duty well performed. Mr. Ray will keep up the high standing and reputation of the *Herald*, and make it an acceptable local and family journal.

They have commenced "doctoring" oysters in Reading, according to a writer in the *Eagle*. It is said that many of what are called "kettle oysters," which are peddled around the streets in tin kettles, and which seem to be large and fat, are opened the night before they are sold and "doctored" with washing soda, so as to swell up the miserable little things and make them look like large and fine ones.

"S. H. F." writes to the Reading *Eagle* that a curious incident occurred on the Bushong farm, occupied by Mr. Himmelberger, in Maidencreek township. Wm. Himmelberger, seeing a hawk some distance away, took his gun, went in pursuit, and shot the bird, and found that its feet were fast in a new strong steel trap, such as are set for rats. Where the trap has been brought from is not known, but it had evidently been carried a long distance.

In the court of Berks county some time ago, Jos. McManus was found guilty of the seduction of Miss Mishler, and $10,000 damages were assessed against him. A new trial was asked by the defense. After argument, the Court stated that if the Commonwealth would remit $2,000 of the damages and take $8,000, the verdict would stand, otherwise a new trial would be granted. [We find the foregoing in the Pottstown *Ledger*. If the statement is correct it seems to be a very queer proceeding on the part of the Court.]

The Easton *Free Press* says: On Wednesday night last a daring attempt was made to blow up the powder house of Michael Uhler, situated near his lime kilns, a short distance below Snufftown. The rascals had effected their entrance by prying open the door; had opened a keg of powder, attached a long piece of fuse to it, and had ignited the fuse, but, fortunately, it burned but a short distance and went out. It is supposed that the rascals were afraid to return to accomplish their purpose, fearing that the explosion might occur and injure them, or that they had fled on the appearance of some person.

George D. Cole, of Towanda, a young man who has not reached his majority, has risen into sudden notoriety by his crooked acts. When nineteen he married the daughter of General Morgan, of Towanda, who was but fifteen and attending school. He soon commenced abusing his wife and last May deserted her. He went to Atlantic City, where he accomplished the ruin of a young lady. In June he returned to his wife for a few days, when he started for Warren, this State. Here he captivated the daughter of a prominent citizen and planned an elopement with her, to take place on the 10th of November. They were married, but the father hearing of the proposed departure caught the couple as they were leaving the town on a train. A scuffle ensued between the father-in-law and son-in-law on the platform, and the latter was thrown to the ground, and the daughter was taken home. Cole then started for Chicago, where he has been arrested for attempting to procure a divorce from his first wife on fraudulent representations. A requisition has been obtained from Governor Hartranft on the Governor of Illinois for the delivery of the scoundrel to Pennsylvania officers. He will probably be tried first in Chicago for his violation of the divorce laws of Illinois.

Forty-Fourth Congress.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

It is extremely amusing to read the proceedings of the House of Representatives at Washington, upon business of vital interest to the country introduced by the Republican side, and which the Democrats acknowledge should be promptly attended to; but which they say "*We* will see to this business when *We* are ready." One-half of the time in a recent session of the House was consumed by the parrying of these men, who so recently worked so industriously for the destruction of the Union, in opposing a bill to correct Senator Hamlin's blunder in his postage bill which was passed by the Forty-third Congress, because the resolution to correct was offered by a Republican; the *We* party giving as a reason for not promptly repealing the bill, "your side of the house made the mistake," and *We* are not yet ready to correct it. But when a resolution is offered which, however cautiously it may be worded, is intended to prefer rebel to Union soldiers in the distribution of the "loaves and fishes" in the basket of the dominant party, *We* deem it of sufficient importance to be promptly forced to a vote, and to be carried by a strict party vote. The *We* element in the Senate is also manifesting the same spirit, and take great delight in reminding Republicans of the Louisiana troubles which they (the *We* party) tried to make a pretext for another civil war, and no doubt would have succeeded had not the gallant *Sheridan* turned up at the proper time, with a "Right about face." "Give me the authority to hang these organized banditti and assassins, and I will stop this reign of terror." The cowards took the hint and retired for a while, but the sun appears to be shining favorably for them now, and like so many bruised snakes they are crawling out again, and with old time vigor, are hissing and striking in every direction with but little effect as yet, save to stop the wheels of legislation.

These are the men who would fain forget the past, who would have the people and the press stop the cry of "rebel;" but they, forsooth, still play the "bully," and manifest that same spirit which directed the cowardly Brooks' deadly blow at the head of Sumner; which sent the assassin's bullet to the heart of our beloved martyr-President, and instigated a war which cost billions of dollars, and hundreds of thousands of human lives, and brought the Republic to the brink of destruction. No, no, never refer to the past; let bygones be bygones! "Let us alone" and *we* will fix things when "we are ready," like our chief of old, until we are again forced to petticoats!!! *Sic semper tyrannus.* PUBLIUS.

A Valuable Medical Treatise.

The edition for 1876 of the sterling Medical Annual, known as Hostetter's Almanac, is now ready, and may be obtained, free of cost, of druggists and general country dealers in all parts of the United States and British America, and indeed in every civilized portion of the Western Hemisphere. It combines, with the soundest practical advice for the preservation and restoration of health, a large amount of interesting and amusing light reading, and the calendar, astronomical calculations, chronological items, &c., are prepared with great care, and will be found entirely accurate. The issue of Hostetter's Almanac for 1876 will probably be the largest edition of a medical work ever published in any country. The proprietors, Messrs. Hostetter & Smith, Pittsburgh, Pa., on receipt of a two cent stamp, will forward a copy by mail to any person who cannot procure one in his neighborhood.

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FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, Dec. 25, 1875.

There was, of course, no business transacted among the banks to-day, and consequently we have no report to offer. The situation is about as formerly reported. The national banks will probably contract their discount lines somewhat during the next week, and allow their surplus to work up into larger volume, in anticipation of the call from the Comptroller of the Currency for a statement of condition on next Friday. This will be rendered comparatively easy by the rather light demand for loans, and there will not be any likelihood of stringency resulting. There are indications of a tolerably brisk demand for discounts next month to aid in the work of the usual January settlements; but after the first of the year, the banks will be disposed to put a large share of their funds into active operation, and besides supplying the wants of their regular customers, will in many cases probably make liberal purchases of paper.

In connection with the expected call for a statement from the Comptroller of the Currency alluded to above, we have to say that we think the policy adopted by that official a mistaken one. The old law provided for quarterly statements; but the provision was amended by allowing the Comptroller to call for a statement of any date. The object of the change was to prevent the banks from accumulating reserves in order to make a heavy showing at the dates of the statements, and then allowing them to run down to the lowest points in the interim. It is now, however, pretty well understood that only at the close of each quarter will the calls be made, and the consequence is that the practices, which the amendment was intended to prevent, are still kept up. We should like to have the Comptroller call for a statement of a date about the middle of December, and say six weeks hence for another. Such a course would, it seems to us, be more in accordance with the object of the law.

No authoritative announcements are as yet made with regard to the January dividends to be made by our banks and financial institutions, but it is generally supposed that they will make a moderately good showing. There are about seventy of our banks, insurance and bridge companies, which have been accustomed to make dividends of that date. Besides these, the disbursements of Government interest and railway dividends and interest, together with the earnings of the manufacturing companies will probably make a liberal sum total.

The report of the operations of the Pittsburgh Clearing House, for the week ending yesterday, shows a continued small volume of business through that institution. The report is as follows:

	Exchanges.	Balances.
Monday, December 20	$ 815,165 52	$165,152 43
Tuesday, December 21	643,076 14	66,251 93
Wednesday, December 22	604,503 24	124,525 01
Thursday, December 23	691,820 23	155,502 17
Friday, December 24	658,545 34	141,467 26
Total	$3,509,213 47	$653,878 79
Week ending Dec. 18	4,007,533 65	$671,281 37
Week ending Dec. 11	4,605,299 36	$838,398 69
Week ending Dec. 4	4,905,346 60	$914,297 16

—The continued drain of legal tenders from New York to the interior, is attracting public attention generally. We were recently shown a letter from a public man of national reputation for his opposition to immediate resumption, in which he predicts that the movement, if kept up a short time longer, would make a repetition of the events of 1873 not improbable. While the drain has been a heavy one, making a decrease of $26,000,000 in the past two months, there are many important differences between the condition of affairs then and now. The first is that the low stage of reserve in which the New York banks were caught in September, 1873, was at the beginning of the westward movement of currency, while now the reserve (still $7,000,000 in excess of legal requirements) has reached its lowest ebb, and, with the new year, will commence to increase again. In fact the changes during the past week were favorable for, notwithstanding the loss in legal-tenders, the decrease in deposits was such as to cause an increase in reserve of $354,000. For the purpose of comparison we publish the leading items of the last two New York bank statements, together with the corresponding items of the first statement during the panic of September, 1873:

	Dec. 18, '75.	Dec. 24, '75.	Sept. 22, '73.
Loans	$295,512,500	$293,683,500	$278,421,700
Specie	16,168,800	16,759,900	18,841,600
Circulation	12,698,000	12,414,200	12,414,200
Deposits	204,238,000	200,640,800	193,040,100
Leg. tenders	41,360,500	40,762,200	34,397,900

It will be seen that the supply of legal tenders is some $6,000,000 more than what it was in 1873, while the requirement for reserve is considerably less. Still the phenomena of the movement are sufficiently well marked to cause the New York *Bulletin* to say very forcibly: "This tendency suggests the question, where would any considerable contraction of legal tender notes, so earnestly advocated in some quarters, be likely to land the banks of this city? Business and practice first; theories afterwards!"

—The following review of the New York money and stock market for the past week, is furnished by Messrs. Trask & Stone, bankers and brokers, No. 7 New street, New York:

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The stock market during the past week has been devoid of any feature, except extreme dullness. In fact, the preparations for the coming holidays have absorbed the chief attention of both operators and brokers.

The only event of moment that has occurred in our midst, has been the somewhat unexpected revival of the railroad war, which promises now to exceed in severity any which has preceded it.

The rates on Eastern freight, which are now established, are not only unremunerative, but will involve loss on the roads; and the effect on the stocks of the contending companies must be injurious to holders. With these facts in view, it cannot be wondered at that many holders of railroad stocks look on with grave concern, and are anxious to sell out.

Western Union Telegraph has been feverish, owing to fear that the Government was about to make some further reduction in their rates for night messages over the whole country.

Pacific Mail is kept in a state of suspense in consequence of the continued uncertainty with regard to the result of Mr. Scott's prolonged absence in Europe.

Gold has been heavy, having sold down to 112¾, in anticipation of the January interest coming out, and from sales by the bulls, who bought on anticipation of possible war complications.

Money, as usual at the close of the year, has been more stringent.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—The following pertinent commentary on the fresh outbreak of railway hostilities is that made by the New York *Bulletin* of Saturday:

"The result of the late advance of freight rates by the trunk roads is just what might have been expected, just what we predicted at the time it would be. The tariff adopted was unreasonably high, beyond what trade could afford to pay on the roads had any necessity to charge; and naturally enough, a competing route seized the occasion to attract transportation to itself. The merchants of this port protested against their business being diverted to another city; the trunk roads were ready enough to listen to their complaint, for they suffered in just the same degree, and the mistake was instantly corrected. The marvel is that the blunder was ever made; for it might have been most foreseen with the most certainty how the extravagant charges would result. This bit of history shows how effective competition is in protecting trade against the railroads, and how unnecessary therefore is the legislative regulation of their business for which there has been so much clamor."

—The Comptroller of the Currency furnishes the following statement of national banks organized the past week:

2,313—First National Bank of Kirkwood, Illinois. Authorized capital, $50,000; paid in capital, $50,000. Henry Tubbs, President; Willard C. Tubbs, Cashier. Authorized to commence business December 18, 1875.

2,314—Traders' National Bank of Charlotte, North Carolina. Authorized capital, $100,000; paid in capital, $100,000. S. P. Smith, President; T. L. Vail, Cashier. Authorized to commence business December 21, 1875.

2,315—National Bank of Commerce of Cincinnati, Ohio. Authorized capital, $500,000; paid in capital, $200,000. Wm. A. Goodman, President; H. B. Russell, Cashier. Authorized to commence business December 21, 1875.

—The committee appointed to investigate the affairs of the Providence Tool company submit a statement recommending an extension upon the entire indebtedness, covering thirty-six months from January 1 next, with equal semi-annual payments, commencing July 1, 1876, with interest at 7 per cent. per annum. The committee say that if the company can receive this indulgence from their creditors, and thus preserve their valuable contracts, we have confidence to believe that they will be able to pay all their debts, both principal and interest, in full. The committee express full confidence in the integrity of the officers of the company and of their intention to devote their energies to the fulfillment of the terms of the extension, if granted; and if within their ability, to anticipate the time of payment. The committee value the assets of the company at $4,145,000 and the liabilities at $2,783,007.

—We find in the *Financial Chronicle* the following judicious and sensible summary of the business situation at the close of 1875:

"It is drawing so close to the end of the year that parties are generally taking a retrospect of their transactions during the past, and maturing their plans to commence upon the business of the coming year with every possible endeavor to make better returns. It can not be denied that both mercantile and financial business during the past has been unsatisfactory, and not only do those complain who have met with positive disaster, but the cry of 'small profits' is almost universal. This condition of affairs is chiefly accounted for by the fact that business has been done upon such an exceedingly close margin as to allow of scarcely any profit and after a merchant has handled the same amount of goods that he did in 1873, or prior years, he finds that the profit is not a tithe of what it was at that time. The same difficulty has been conspicuously seen in the railroad earnings, where the large decrease is not profits but does not come so much from a loss of tonnage as from the ungracefully low rates of transportation.

"Notwithstanding the disappointment which has arisen so many times from hope deferred, and the failure of any decided revival in business to come when anticipated, we are still of the opinion that the outlook for 1876 is really more favorable, and that the centennial year will witness a gradual and healthy improvement in business."

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, December 25, 1875.

The wholesale and commission houses, railway freight offices, and banks were all closed to-day, in observance of the Christmas festival, and consequently we can make no report of the markets so far as regards Saturday. As any figures which we can give, therefore, will be four days old before they reach the reader, we give no quotations for this issue, with the exception of one or two lines of trade in which there is no alteration of our local prices.

The Tea and Coffee Duty.

The agitation of the revival of the tariff on tea and coffee has been the cause of some disturbance in values in those lines of merchandise. This disturbance has passed away during the past few days, and the succeeding steadiness will perhaps be followed by a forward tendency upon the confirmation of such intelligence as the following, which we take from the Washington correspondence of the New York *Bulletin*:

It was undoubtedly the intention of Mr. Kerr, when he appointed the Committee of Ways and Means, to select a committee that would commence reven...e reform by placing a duty on tea and coffee, but it is definitely ascertained now that no such thing could be made law at this session, either by vote of the House or Senate, or even of the Committee of Ways and Means, which body is favorable to the thing on general principles.

There is quite an effort among strong manipulators around Congress to put a duty on tea and coffee, and, failing in that, to get it on tea alone. But the test of making the receipts meet the expenditures of the Government has been decided by a determination to level the expenditures down to the ordinary receipts, and to adjust the tariff on the basis upon which it now stands, with more equitable provisions. The Republicans, in majority, as protectionists, oppose a duty on tea and coffee, while the Democrats say they will not assume the responsibility of its reimposition. I believe that a two-thirds majority of the House, without regard to party, are against it, and while the Senate Committee favors it, the Senate has a large working majority against it.

The Exportation of Cotton Goods.

The experimental exportation of cotton fabrics from this country to England, is a matter of more than ordinary interest to all business classes, not only in the immediate results which its success will bring, but in the example and encouragement which it will hold out to other interests, in a position to follow the same course. In connection with this subject the New York *Journal of Commerce* says:

The export question was enlivened by the return of one of our explorers from the other side, who is enthusiastic as to the opportunities. He confined his observations to Manchester and London, being convinced that as goods could now be sold there at a small profit, it was a natural consequence that they would sell in further markets all over the world at a better profit. He has brought a good many sample goods. Cloth patterns have been ordered by shippers in Manchester to be sent direct hence to Jamaica and Barbadoes, and brown sheetings to be sent to Africa, while for England one firm alone is prepared to make a beginning with 20,000 pieces a month of brown sheetings. The prices will have to be figured down very closely, but it is worth while considering whether we cannot afford to export at the barest profit, or even no profit at all, in order to relieve home markets. The Manchester buyers express a want of confidence in the stability of the present movement, imagining it is a flash in the pan consequent on unusually large accumulations of stocks, and that they might not be sure of a supply when they were ready to enter more largely into the trade. Were they satisfied about this and that we would be only too glad to keep our mills running and supply any amount they might feel disposed to take, there would be more reasonable hope for a boil of our goods. For their merits are freely acknowledged. They are warm in praise of the excellent materials we offer. Even in the calicoes the use of "dressing" is prevalent abroad, while the use of a large proportion of Surats and Egyptian short staple cotton renders their production not cheaper but at so low a cost that we shall have to be satisfied with very close profits. Some of their goods are sold at 3c a yard, and could still be sold at that price even if cotton went up 50 per cent. But cotton is the smallest part of such stuff. Again, wide goods are preferred to ours, as saving labor and expense in the making up. This seems reasonable, and if we establish the market, of course we can and will oblige our customers in this respect.

Receipts of Produce.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce in this city during the week ending today, compared with the corresponding receipts for the three preceding weeks, are as follows:

Week ending Dec.	4.	Dec. 11.	Dec. 18.	Dec. 25.
Flour, bbls	6,397	8,744	7,467	8,005
Apples, bbls	1,289	1,166	794	959
Cheese, lbs	2,719	807	312	1,988
Corn, bus	7,967	3,393	11,962	9,041
Wheat, bus	5,876	9,780	5,450	7,200
Barley, bus	15,393	18,005	6,913	8,000
Rye, bus	2,205	537	530	213
Oats, bus	16,825	8,165	23,878	23,888
Butter, pkgs	353	382	271	225
Bacon, pkgs	20,590	14,206	7,022	24,485
Bacon, tcs	355	458	115	367
Potatoes, bus	10,817	4,912	14,161	7,040
Hay, bales	1,825	2,233	1,581	2,150

Grain and Produce

GRAIN—The receipts for the past week have been about the same as on the previous week; the shipments, however, fell off to about 60,000 bushels in barley. December will have to be recorded as an unfavorable month in the grain trade, canal navigation having been closed. Receipts light throughout the month. We make nominal quotations as follows: Michigan white wheat $1 36@1 40 by bushel; Pennsylvania and Ohio do $1 32@1 35; Northwestern red at 1 34@1 38; prime sound amber at $1 30; low grades of do $1 24@1 25; reduced do to $1 00@1 10, as to quality. Corn—Old shelled nominally 66@67c by bushel for prime; yellow at 66@6c for high mixed; 62@63c for low mixed; new ear is firmer at 48@50c for mixed; 51@53c for prime yellow; new shelled 52@55c for do. Oats—Choice Western white 44@45c by bushel; prime do 43@44c; Ohio and Pennsylvania do 42@43c; dark to light mixed 39@42c. Barley—Canada $1 30@1 35 by bushel; choice spring $1 18@1 25; common to prime do $1 00@1 15; choice fall $1 10@1 15; low grades do 90c@1 05. Rye—90@92c by bushel for prime. Jobbing prices of corn and oats rule 3@4c above quotations. The visible supply of grain, comprising the stocks in granary at the principal points of accumulation at lake and seaboard ports, and in transit by rail and water reduces at the undermentioned dates was as follows:

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Barley, Rye, bush.
Dec. 18, '75	16,837,316	3,742,236	1,441,744	1,477,337 491,786
Dec. 11, '75	16,583,389	3,049,483	2,567,077	2,631,067 448,240
Dec. 4, '75	16,466,298	3,349,731	2,551,737	2,553,579 495,290
Nov. 27, '75	15,762,596	3,354,860	2,577,553	2,553,579 495,290
Nov. 20, '75	16,004,862	4,315,012	3,786,287	2,822,270 448,284
Nov. 13, '75	14,236,078	4,534,287	3,983,277	2,822,270 407,976
Nov. 6, '75	12,762,910	4,681,852	3,619,473	2,173,626 419,447
Nov. 1, '75	12,491,894	4,674,094	3,683,279	2,446,447 419,447

DAIRY PRODUCTS.—There being no dealings in either butter or cheese to-day, we omit quotations, which would be four days old before reaching the reader, and give some extracts from the report of Friday's New York market, which will be of interest to the shippers in that direction. The *Bulletin* says of butter, "Western continues to move fairly where selected with willingness to meet the market. A great many Eastern buyers want this class of stock if they can reach it with 25c for a ton figure, but are not anxious enough to pay more unless quality proves remarkably fine, and this does not often happen at present. Some of the consigned lots sent in on this supposition are entirely neglected, and the proportion of the supply good enough to command our quotations for selections is very small indeed. Common Western is moderately active, owing to scant offering, but about steady." On the subject of cheese the same journal says: "Stocks are carried at about former rates, simply because there is no demand, but the indications favor the belief that were buyers willing to operate freely they could obtain much better terms than current nominal quotations seem to show. Home buyers are in moderate attendance and cautious mood, and those of sound credit or with prompt cash can obtain easy terms. Shippers have taken a little stock during the week, including the choice factory at an exceptionally high figure, but the average ends on export account have not exceeded our figures, and were neither plenty or freat that. Holders who control strictly fancies seem to entertain a goodly amount of faith still, and the offerings of these are light, but on early made cheese and a portion of the fall production there is a desire to realize."

Provisions.

The receipts of hog products during the past week have been quite moderate, being 26,185 pieces and 367 tierces, equal to about 300,000 pounds. Trade was suspended to-day at all points, and consequently we have no report of prices to offer. The Cincinnati *Price Current* gives the following resume of the reports of packing operations so far this year:

"Notwithstanding the fact that there have been several days of quite warm weather, the movement of hogs to market in the West during the past week has aggregated a fairly liberal number, and shows a considerable increase over corresponding week last year. The information which we have indicating the packing at the six leading cities shows that the deficiency as compared with same date last year has been reduced; from 305,000 two weeks ago and 360,000 one week ago to 140,000 at this date.

"From interior points we have returns this week from places which packed last year 1,135,857 of a total of 2,965,415 at all interior points. The packing to date of these reports, all within five days past, aggregates 675,404, against 785,457 to same dates last season—a falling off of 311,051. Should the same relation exist for the other points, the deficiency now at all interior points would reach about 560,000, indicating that while the six cities have been gaining during the past two weeks as compared with the same period last year, the interior points have apparently fallen equally as much behind—which if correct, would make the aggregate packing in the West during this time to have been about the same as in corresponding time last year. To carry out the calculation in the same proportion, the packing in the West would now appear to be about 2,600,000 against a 2,600,000 to same date last year. This may or may not be approximately correct.

"While the packing at a large proportion of the interior points was closed at this date last year, three-fourths of the whole number for the season then being reached, there are comparatively few which have already closed this season, and some have but fairly commenced operations, and still others which have not yet commenced but contemplate doing considerable packing. The information which we have indicates an almost uniform gain in weights, and the tenor of expressions relative to supply of hogs still back leads us to believe that the chances are in favor of a considerable increase in the packing during the remainder of the season compared with same time last year. The weather to date, with the exception of a few days, has been very favorable for fattening, and at any downward course in prices the farmers have checked the movement of hogs to market."

Wool.

There continues to be a wholly unchanged market, and as business in this section remains so unimportant as to hardly form any basis for quotations, we omit them, and give the following report of the New York market:

"The general market has been dull and without any decidedly new features of interest. The stocks of pretty much all domestic grades are held about as before, with greater or less firmness, according to the firmness of owners, but there is nothing we can discover as yet to indicate the close of unpleasantly low estimates put forth. Indeed, quite a number of odd lots of stock not fully up into the strictly choice grading have been offered in a disposition, and even the best piles would in very few instances be allowed to remain did they happen to draw out a prompt cash bid. Buyers are still talking discouragingly of the goods market, and quite positively assert that wool can not be purchased at any higher figures than now ruling and leave a profit for the manufacturer. It is not improbable that the writing up of accounts and the balancing of books with the close of the year may result in sufficient change of feeling among either buyers or sellers to have a decided influence upon the market, but at present, general business is slow and void of much interest. The most noticeable feature of the past week's business has been the free sales of California, especially fall, which attracts attention by its relative cheapness."

[By Associated Press.]

BOSTON, December 25.—Wool was quiet without any important changes, the demand being chiefly upon fine fleeces, combing and delaine. Sales of extra and double extra Pennsylvania and Ohio at 48@50c; No. 1 47@48c; Michigan extra and above 42@45c; No. 1 46@47c; common 40@44c; Wisconsin extra and above 42@44c; New York State, Vermont and New Hampshire 46@48c; tub-washed, fine, 50@55c; do Kentucky 50@55c; pulled is held at 50@55c for unwashed; 31c for common Western and 42@46c for Kentucky; good to choice Kentucky clothing, unwashed shorts, 37½@40c; Western unwashed, fine, 36@38c; medium 35@37c. Pulled wools are only in fair demand; Western supers and extras held at 46@48c; Eastern supers 47@50c; New York supers 42½@46c.

Petroleum—Weekly Review.

December 27.—The following are the receipts of crude for the past week, by pipe line and railroad, with a comparison table for previous years; also the exports of refined eastward by the various railroads, including the Allegheny Valley, West Penn, Pennsylvania, and Pittsburgh and Connellsville:

	Rets. crude. R. R. Bbls.	Exp. Penn R. R. Bbls.	Exp. A. V. R. Bbls.
Monday, Dec. 20	476	.....	.....
Tuesday, Dec. 21	.....	.....	.....
Wednesday, Dec. 22	149	.....	599
Thursday, Dec. 23	.....	.....	.....
Friday, Dec. 24	80	.....	.....
Saturday, Dec. 25	691	.....	550
Total for week	1,396	.....	550
Since Jan. 1	1,103,183	28,711	896,191
Same time 1874	1,164,425	53,262	744,672
Same time 1874	1,540,675	116,962	744,672
Same time 1873	2,782,995	201,486	1,140
Same time 1872	2,186,501	151,703	625,007
Same time 1871	1,146,489	102,166	631,302
Same time 1870	1,090,460	124,924	619,234
Same time 1869	1,022,902	145,808	446,894
Same time 1868	1,077,257	185,185	520,638

BUSINESS—The petroleum markets have been irregular and fluctuating throughout the week, but the variations in value have not been of any considerable extent, being comprised within a range of 2½@3c. Transactions have not been very active, but a moderate trade, largely of a speculative character, has been done in crude. The distinguishing feature of the market in the early part of the week was firmness with a slight advance of about 2½c, which was succeed by an easier feeling and slightly lower prices. Refined exhibited the same general character as crude, but the fluctuations were so slight as hardly to be quotable, the entire range of prices not varying more than ½c. The week closed quiet and weak. The following statement shows the daily aggregate sales and resales of crude petroleum in the oil regions during the week:

	Bbls.		Bbls.
Monday	36,000	Thursday	57,500
Tuesday	64,000	Friday	45,500
Wednesday	62,000	Saturday	28,500
Total			332,500
Last week			330,000

CRUDE RECEIPTS.—The following are the crude receipts from all points by river and rail for the past two weeks:

	Last week.	This week.
Crude received, barrels	1,589	1,396

The following are the receipts of crude petroleum at Pittsburgh by river and rail for the past eleven years, from January 1 to—

	Barrels.
December 25, 1875	1,104,432
same time 1874	1,510,572
same time 1873	2,782,995
same time 1872	1,186,501
same time 1871	1,146,489
same time 1870	1,050,810
same time 1869	1,028,902
same time 1868	1,052,222
same time 1867	727,493
same time 1866	1,051,330
same time 1865	439,248

EXPORTS OF REFINED.—The following are the exports of refined oil from the various railroads for the past two weeks:

Roads.	Last week. Allegheny Valley Railroad	This week. Allegheny Valley Railroad
	1,604	550

The following are the exports of refined oil East by the various routes from January 1st to December 25th:

Roads.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
P. R. R.	102,641	120,503	91,044	116,920	28,711
A. V. R. R.	31,302	23,007	67,140	744,672	896,051
P. & C. R. R.	.....	.....	.....	.....	319,228
Total	743,943	743,510	858,184	860,998	644,000

SATURDAY—Business was entirely suspended in all the leading oil markets on Saturday, and consequently we have no report to make of the market of that date.

IRON AND HARDWARE.

NEW YORK.

Hardware—Business does not amount to much in a wholesale way just now; in fact there is scarcely anything doing worthy of note, and but little improvement can be expected until after the opening of next month. Prices in most cases are called steady, but are in reality merely nominal where no positively new list has been decided upon for the reopening of the year. The late announcement of the proposed change in the rate of strap and T hinges has excited a little breeze and nearly all manufacturers are announcing their intention to meet the market at the lowest rates at time of delivery. The rates on wrought nails have been revised as follows: Bright iron—Narrow and table, discount 30 and 5 per cent.; loose pin (reversible), discount 30 and 5 per cent; loose joint, 40 and 5 per cent. Patent steel iron, bright and countersunk—Narrow and table, discount 30 and 5 per cent.; loose pin (reversible), discount 30 and 5 per cent.; loose joint, 40 and 5 per cent. Patent steel iron, bright and countersunk—Narrow and table, discount 20 and 5 per cent.; light narrow, discount 20 and 5 per cent.; light inside blind discount 40 and 5 per cent. Boynton's lightning cross cut saws are reduced to 90 per cent. discount; one man do 40 and 5; buck, patent, 5 bar frame, $8 50 per dozen; Bilhorn's vises $4 70 net; Boynton's patent saw sets $12 60 per dozen, 30 and 5@40 per cent discount; solid cast files further reduced, 5 inch, $2 25 net, and 10 inch, $4 20 net; and ordinary files $5 00 per 5 curriers less 40 and 5 per cent. Foreign hardware is only moderately active and without change of importance on values. Nails are in good demand by light-dealers from all quarters and the market nominally as before. Some dealers, however, continue to talk of a still further decline, and, while admitting the absence of buoyancy at present, look for lower prices further. About $3 60 for 10d may be quoted for all orders under 200 kegs.

IRON—Scotch pig iron of prime to small supplies present and prospective, and the strength reported for the foreign markets, remains firm. The demand is mostly confined to small odd parcels, and buyers are somewhat disposed to speculate in the hope of a sharp rebuilt that much of their trade has been checked by large supplies passing through Canada and across Lake Erie. Quotations for the lower rates than could be accepted on importations at this port. We learn of only 50 tons Egglinton at $23 50, ex ship.

American pig is nominally steady. Most of the leading Lehigh continue to be getting more confidence on a basis of $23 00 for No. 1, and some ask more, but on one certain well known brand, at least the intimation has been made very strongly, that some shading from the above figure would be entertained if accepted. "Outside" brands, too, are again inserted at as available quite low, but there is so much mixing goes on in the trade that it is difficult to ascertain much of a positive character beyond the fact that about everybody is displeased with the position of affairs and sees no immediate relief. Sales of 300 tons "common" on private terms; also 100 tons No. 1 at $23 00. We understand that a warehousing and safe deposit company propose concentrating the product of the Lehigh at Perth Amboy, and issuing warehouse receipts for the iron, these receipts to be saleable on the market by the holder in a manner similar to the Scotch warrants. One or two of the leading companies are said to have already made considerable.

Scrap iron is dull and uncertain but rather tends downward. Holders find that to move stock they have somewhat to shade rates, and few cases seem inclined to accept the alternative. Stocks are not very large. We learn of no sales.

Rails are rather quiet at the moment. Iron has not been sold on account of any stock as reported, but are said to be doing well at the West, and commanding, at least, rates equal to those asked here. Steel rails are steady, and further negotiations are pending, though the recent movement met about the most pressing orders. The total contracts on steel rails were somewhat larger than before noted, amounting in the aggregate to about 55,000 tons for next summer's delivery, and mostly on a basis of $65 00@67 00 at the mills.

Old rails are weak on price and $23 00 or under would have to be accepted, though some holders' ideas are fixed at a much higher figure. A sale of 10,000 tons is said to have been made within a week or two, but the particulars are suppressed.—*Bulletin.*

SHEFFIELD.

There is again no noteworthy alteration to report in connection with the leading industries at town and surrounding district. Everything remains in the exceedingly sluggish condition to which allusion has been made on various former occasions, and so far as forward appearances go there is no apparent prospect of any early amelioration of the current state of affairs. In the iron trade proper a few establishments are producing pig iron in limited quantities, which they are either selling to the founders or forge proprietors themselves are working it up into common bars. These bars, quoted at something like £8 per ton at the works are sent into Sheffield in competition with the products of the North Staffordshire and Lancashire establishments, but the market is generally stocked in proportion to the demand that sales are on a very small scale. At one or two iron works in the vicinity of Rotherham a few fairly good specifications for hoops are in course of execution, as contracts which are understood to be below £12 per ton. In the steel field itself the large works are occupied in a number of departments on work of a high grade, such as the manufacture of armor plates, turrets and fort shields for fortification purposes, which cannot be classed amongst the ordinary routine of iron working. These departments are active, as I have from time to time had occasion to state, but in others, such as the tire, axle, and buffer shops (to omit all mention of the rail mills) there is next to nothing doing. There is a rather better inquiry for reliable boiler plates and ship plates of good quality. The latter are mainly on account of the Admiralty, Mersey, Thames and Clyde yards. Some of the shipbuilders are now making use of steel instead of iron plates.

In the cast steel trade, I regret to have to note decided symptoms of a still further depression of business. The stagnation has for long time been creeping on, and has now overtaken even the very best firms engaged in the manufacture of this Sheffield specialty. As last quarter's dividends from the largest houses this week inaugurated a still further restriction of working time, which, under the altered plan, will from now be three days in short active, instead of four as heretofore. It will be surmised how depressed this branch of trade is when I state, which I do on indisputable authority, that a couple of days ago one of the most eminent steel firms had not a single order on its file. Special tool steels, platesand sheets of particular sizes, and rolled to specified angles, are the only kinds now in brisk demand, and even then in but very small consignments.

NORTH OF ENGLAND.

As the condition of this particular district is just now a matter of critical interest to other localities, owing to the effort to get down wages, I quote the following remarks on the general state of the iron trade in it from the Newcastle *Journal* of yesterday, in which it appears as a report from Middlesborough: "The iron trade has during the past week exhibited an improved tone so far as the pig metal market is concerned. There has been a continuation of the enlarged demand to which we referred last week for Staffordshire, Lancashire and other inland iron districts. The effect has been, notwithstanding the small demand, owing to the depression which has appeared locally, to prevent any decrease, if any, increase of stocks, and further to cause some little advance in prices. Iron from Cleveland can be delivered at the yards in Staffordshire, and sold there at 2s to 3s per ton below the native brands. In South Yorkshire and Derby, where the cost of transit is less, there has been a good demand, and the same may be stated as regards Scotland, where deliveries are chiefly made by rail from the Tees. The quotations of pig iron are: No. 1, 54s 6d; No. 3, 51s 6d; and No. 4 forge 48s to 48s 6d net cash. The demand for forge has rendered them slightly disproportionate as compared with No. 3. The returns of the Cleveland iron masters' account of the stocks of iron for November have not yet been issued. In the finished iron department, though work does not come in faster than it is being completed, there have been two or three encouraging orders for rails, and our works at Stockton, which have been laid off are, it is stated, about to make a new start. At Darlington, also, the works of the Darlington Iron Company are at present employed when they were expected to be closed for want of work. On the other hand, there are works such as Hopkins, Gilkes & Co., at Middlesborough, where a large number of men have been laid off, whether temporarily or for a longer period is not known. Another work in the same locality, employing nearly 600 men, has also been stopped."—*Correspondence from Age.*

Cincinnati Hog Market

CINCINNATI, December 25.—Hogs—Receipts light; market firm; some lots held over for higher prices; common light $5 50@5 80; fair to good packing $5 90@6 15; choice heavy $6 20@6 25.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK.

Britannic	December 25...Liverpool.
City of Brooklyn	December 25...Liverpool.
Pereire	December 25...France.
Deutschland	December 25...Bremen.
Wyoming	December 28...Liverpool.
Colorado	December 29...Hull.
China	December 29...Liverpool.
State of Virginia	December 30...Liverpool.

FROM PHILADELPHIA.

Pennsylvania	December 23...Liverpool.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

Brownsville.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROWNSVILLE, PA., December 26, 1875.

River falling; 16 feet. Weather rainy; thermometer 60 at 5 P. M.

Wheeling.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

MORGANTOWN, W. VA., December 26, 1875.

River rising with 27 feet in the channel. Departed—Carrie Brooks, Pittsburgh. A heavy rain began this afternoon which still continues.

For Additional Dispatches see Fourth Page

RIVER NEWS:

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Arrived.

Elector	Abrams...Geneva.
Chieftain	Hendricks...Geneva.
Elizabell	Boyd...Elizabeth.
Salt Valley	Sanford...Ironton.

Departed.

Elector	Abrams...Geneva.
Chieftain	Hendricks...Geneva.
Elizabeth	Boyd...Elizabeth.

MONONGAHELA—Sixteen feet six inches and falling.

Boats Advertised for This Day.

Brownsville and Geneva.....S. A. M. and 4 P. M.
Ironton.....Salt Valley.....Sanford, 4 P. M.

THE marks last evening indicated sixteen feet six inches and falling. The highest point reached was eighteen feet. During the afternoon we had heavy rains which, if general, will cause a rise during the next twelve hours.

THE mail packet on the slackwater leave at 4 P. M. for all points on that route.

THE Carrie V. Kountz has been released from her dangerous position on the Mississippi and is again in the trade.

WE have received no word from the Carrie Brooks. If she arrives she will leave on Tuesday, at 4 P. M., for Zanesville and intermediate points.

THE fine passenger packet Salt Valley, Capt. Sanford, takes her departure this day, at 4 P. M., for Ironton and intermediate points. The clerks are the brothers Maddy.

THE Cincinnati *Times* of Saturday announces the departure of the Emma Graham for Pittsburgh. She will leave here on Monday at 4 P. M., for Cincinnati and way points.

PILOT MIKE KELLY says that the coal barge which was sunk by the Lizzie Hatch in the Goose Island is now lying bottom upward in the middle of the river at Hacker's bend.

THE passenger steamer Andes, Captain Muhleman, will arrive at Wheeling to-day, and take her departure from Bellaire for Cincinnati on Tuesday on the arrival of the one P. M. train from this city. The Andes is a first-class boat, and is in charge of careful and attentive officers.

RECEIPTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Ironton.

BY STEAMER SALT VALLEY.—Shoenberger & Co, 351 bdls keg hoops; Chess, Smythe & Co, 2 box tucks; Cook & Taggard, 500 bills keg staves; S. R. & W. J. Patterson, 500 bales straw; Elliott Small, for sale, 17 pkgs eggs and butter; Henry Berger, 20 pkgs furniture; Voigt, Schoed & Co, 8 corpkgs poultry; 12 pkgs marketing; James H Loh & Co, 6 do; Van Gorder & S, 5 bbls beans; J H Sandford, for sale, 2 coops poultry, 2 bbls eggs and butter; J M Stocker, 50 sks corn; I. Mantel & Co, 100 do; Wm Flacens & Son, 24 sks flue scrap, 11 rolls leather; T H Holmes & Co, 3 bxs brush handles; B D Moore, 150 oil bbls; P Duff & Son, 12 pkgs marketing; Geo Gray, 2 pkgs do; Henry Krieg, 6 do; McBane & Anjer, 350 sks corn; John Hemany, 1 sewing machine.

IF REPORT says true, a remedial agent has been found for that hitherto incurable disease, the Eastern leprosy, in a vegetable product known as "gurgun balsam." This substance, recently brought to notice by Mr. Dougall, a medical officer of the Indian Government, was at first received with skepticism by the medical profession, whose suspicions had been aroused by the many discoveries of fancied specifics like "cundurango" and its congeners; but the result of an extended series of cases treated with gurgun balsam have been so encouraging that the Indian Government has made official provision to have a large supply of the drug forwarded to the Cape. In addition to its alleged efficacy in leprosy, Dr. Erasmus Wilson, one of the most eminent English authorities, announces that he has diseases of a terrible a nature, a great step will be gained.

USEFUL HOLIDAY PRESENTS!

10,000 VOLUMES OF

Beautiful Books, Fine Bibles, Albums, &c., &c., for the Holidays.

EVERY DAY AND NIGHT THIS WEEK. All to be sold at about HALF REGULAR PRICES. Ladies are invited to attend.

J. K. PRATT & BRO, J. D. BAILEY, Auctioneer. MWF

NICKEL PLATED Fire Irons and Stands.

TABLE AND POCKET CUTLERY,

Ivory Handle Knives.
Pearl Handle Knives.
Bone Handle Knives.
Rubber Handle Knives.
Ebony Handle Knives.
Rosewood Handle Knives.
Children's Knives and Forks.
Plated Forks, Spoons, &c.,

AT BOTTOM PRICES.

Lindsay, Sterrit & Co.,

247 LIBERTY STREET,

OPPOSITE HEAD OF WOOD STREET.

VIENNA Glycerine Soap.

25 *Gross just received for Winter use. This Celebrated Soap contains one-third part of Sary's Pure Glycerine. Price, 3 Cakes, 50 Cents. Also, a large lot of Brecknell's Skin So

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV. | Room 25, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 25, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	29.831	36	90	S. E.	Light.	Clear.
2 P. M.	29.621	58	50	S.	Fresh.	Cloudy
9 P. M.	29.619	38	81	W.	Fresh.	Lt.rain

Mean barometer....29.695 | Highest thermom....68
Mean thermom.... 55 | Lowest thermom....29
Rainfall 1.05

The Pittsburgh Female College will reopen January 3. Charges reduced. Room for only six more boarders. Apply to Rev. I. C. Pershing, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Suspicious Characters Arrested.

On Saturday the police made quite a haul of suspicious characters. The following are in the lock-up awaiting hearings: John Young, John Miller, Alex Killin, James Johnston and Frank Clark. Officer Dunn discovered the latter in the act of attempting to take a watch from a man's pocket.

Officers Assaulted.

Officer Sol. Coulson and a companion officer whom he called to his aid, in attempting to arrest two colored men on Saturday, were handled rather roughly. Coulson was cut on the left arm, though not seriously, with a razor, and the other officer was bitten on the leg. The two colored men were taken to the lock-up where they gave their names as Scott Jones and Turner Johnston. They will have a hearing to day and, likely, the officers will make informations against them.

Pittsburgh Female College.

The Pittsburgh Female College is enjoying rare prosperity. More pupils are in attendance than at any time last year, or the year previous. Sixteen additional boarders will enter at the reopening after the holidays, leaving room for only six more. The excellent buildings and accommodations of the college, its high tone, large Faculty and superior facilities in music (in the conservatory connected with the college), are increasing the attendance, while every branch of business is on the decline. Those who intend to enter should make immediate application to the President, Rev. I. C. Pershing, D. D., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Felonious Assault.

Last Saturday a colored man named John Ridgeley, of Allegheny, entered a charge before Squire Edgar against James Robinson for felonious assault and battery. He alleges that the defendant attacked him in a saloon on Beaver avenue, at two o'clock Saturday morning, and getting him into the street, drew a knife and cut him in the back. In proof of his statements he exhibited the wound, an ugly gash extending lengthwise near the base of the spinal column. His coat was also cut, torn and saturated with blood. The Squire dispatched an officer to arrest the accused.

The New Episcopal Residence.

The new Episcopal residence, attached to St. Paul's Cathedral, was thrown open to the public on Christmas day, when many hundreds of the congregation inspected it. The new residence is now occupied by Bishop Domenec and the clergy of the Cathedral, consisting of Rev. Mr. Hickey, Vicar-General; Rev. Geo. S. Grace, Chancellor; Rev. J. Reardon and Rev. P. Cassiday. The reverend fathers are not so well fixed in this world's goods as to be able to furnish their magnificent rooms magnificently or even comfortably, but they manage to live very well as they are, and were presented with handsome furnishings.

A Pleasant Occasion.

Among the many pleasant gatherings on Christmas day, none were more thoroughly enjoyed than that of the three hundred children of the Eighth U. P. Sabbath School. After religious services John S. Lamb, Esq., Superintendent of the school, presented a handsome book to each scholar, who had attended every Sabbath day throughout the year, and also to those who had missed but one. Little paper sacks of candy were then distributed among all the scholars, and an entertainment, consisting of short addresses and recitations was given. The members of the Bible class presented the Rev. John S. Sands with a splendid easy chair.

Struck by a Train.

Saturday evening, about 6:25, as the Brinton accommodation east was nearing East Liberty and the limited mail was passing it coming west, a man who was walking on one of the tracks was struck by one of the trains and instantly killed. The unfortunate boy of the man was found by a switchman after the trains had passed, but nobody could identify him. He was a young man of about twenty-three or twenty-three years of age and probably a tramp. The supposition is that in stepping aside to avoid one train he stepped by the other. The body was conveyed to the establishment of Mr. Williams, the undertaker, on Fifth avenue. The Coroner will hold an inquest to-day.

Bad Ones.

About two weeks ago two lads named Ed. alias "Doc" Kelly and Frank Kramer were arrested on the charge of stealing a box of gloves from Jas. Letterstorn's trimming store on Ohio street, Allegheny. They were fortunate enough to escape punishment by making fair promises to the Court. Saturday morning these identical boys again found themselves in the clutches of the law. It appears they assaulted an old man in one of the parks, and Kelly knocked him down with a pistol. Kramer, a son of Alderman